

GENERAL NOTES.

An Abundance of Murres in the Environs of Quebec.—Since the 15th of November last, numerous flocks of Murres¹ have been seen flying over the river before Quebec; hundreds have been shot by sportsmen and some have even been killed with sticks near the wharves. The cold in December has been from 15° to 25° Reaumur, but it did not seem to inconvenience them. Several, however, that had left the water to rest on floating ice found themselves unable to remove on account of their wet feet freezing to it; two live specimens thus captured have been brought to me. The presence of these birds is a novelty here, as they are never met with in the environs of the city. Several have even strayed away into the mountains about ten miles from the river; they were exhausted and starving. After the 20th of December their numbers considerably decreased till the 8th of January, when the last were seen. Their presence is probably due to hurricanes in the Gulf of St. Lawrence driving them towards the southwest.—C. E. DIONNE, *Quebec, Can.*

The Double-crested Cormorant.—I have read with interest an article on the 'Habits of the Double-crested Cormorant' in 'The Auk' for January, 1894. For the last ten years I have spent one day in the last part of September on the Graves at the entrance to Boston Harbor, the resort for the Cormorants of the north shore. I try to get there on a rising tide, believing that the Cormorants which I drive away fly to an outlying ledge of the Brewsters and there sit on the seaweed until driven off by the tide, when they fly back to the high rocks of the Graves. I generally take two decoys which I put on the top of the rocks and hide myself in a cleft. I generally shoot four or five and try and justify my doing so by giving them to an old inhabitant of Swampscott, in his day a sportsman, who puts them through that process of dissolution which is said to make Coot palatable (but which doesn't), and eats them. I have often seen the balls of fish bones lying on the rocks described by Mr. Mackay, rejections after digestion by the Cormorant, and have, as he says, invariably found the throat of the bird full of fish, generally the common sea perch.—CHARLES P. CURTIS, JR., *Boston, Mass.*

Correction.—In my article 'Habits of the Double-crested Cormorant in Rhode Island' (Auk, Jan. 1894, p. 20) "*Cancer irroratus* Say = *Panopeus sayi* Smith" should read "*Cancer irroratus* Say and *Panopeus sayi* Smith."—GEO. M. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

In Re Dutcher on the Labrador Duck.—Fearing that my statement in the January 'Auk,' p. 11, lines 1 and 2,—“D. M. Cole and his associate, Mr. Cary, saw a female duck with a brood of young which he was sure was this species,”—may give a wrong impression, notwithstanding the conclusion stated at the close of the paragraph, I now state that the bird

¹ [A specimen sent to Dr. Jonathan Dwight, Jr., proved to be *Uria lomvia*.—EDD.]

seen was *not* a Labrador Duck. Mr. Cole has recently visited Cambridge, and through the courtesy of Mr. William Brewster was shown his specimens of the Labrador as well as other specimens of Ducks, and after a careful study of them, aided by Mr. Brewster, concludes that the bird he saw on the Grand River was a female of the genus *Glaucionetta*,—Golden-eye.—WILLIAM DUTCHER, *New York City*.

The Labrador Duck.—An Overlooked Specimen and Record.—Mr. Ernest D. Wintle, of Montreal, Canada, lately called my attention to a heretofore overlooked record and specimen of the Labrador Duck. The following is an exact copy of the record as published in 'The Canadian Naturalist and Geologist,' Vol. VII, December, 1862, No. 6, pp. 426-427, by Archibald Hall, M. D., L. R. C. S. E, in his series of papers entitled 'On the Mammals and Birds of the District of Montreal.'

"*A. Labradorica*. Labrador Duck.

"*Fuligula Labradorica*. Anderson!

"*Camptolemus Labradorus*. Gmel.! Gray! Baird!

"v. s. p. Cire flesh colour; remainder of bill blackish horn colour; tarsi and irides yellow.

"Dorsal aspect. With the exception of a streak of black stretching from the base of the bill to the occiput, and a very light brown streaky stain stretching from the cire to below the ear, all the rest of the head, with the secondaries, pure white; remainder of the back black; tail, which is rather acuminate rounded, blackish brown; the distal third of the outer edge of the outer scapulars coloured with black, and the whole of the inner vanes of the inner half dusky, terminating in blackish, giving to the under surface of the wing a dusky appearance; the primaries are all dusky black; the feathers on the cheek have a bristly feel; in other parts of the head and neck the feathers have a velvety feel, a good deal resembling that of the Great Northern Diver.

"Ventral aspect. A belt of white across the breast until it touches the wing, and separated from the white of the head by a ring of black about half an inch broad; remainder of breast black, quickly changing to blackish, which itself changes to brown on the abdomen and under wing coverts; the flanks, like the lower part of the breast, are shining black.

"Length, from tip of bill to apex of tail, 20½ inches; alar expanse, 27½ inches; the two first primaries longest and subequal.

"A specimen of this beautiful duck, the first which I have seen, was shot in the bay of Laprairie this spring (1862) by a *habitant*, and was purchased by Mr. Thompson of this city, who has kindly placed it at my disposal for examination. I believe it to be one of the rarest of our visitants of this species, and to demonstrate that an acquaintance with our Fauna must be a work of many years."

This specimen is the forty-second so far known, of which thirty are in North America. It gives me pleasure to announce that by purchase I have added this specimen to my collection.—WILLIAM DUTCHER, *New York City*.